



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - January 23, 2003

- ***In the West***, scattered rain and snow showers continue from ***northern California to the northern Rockies***. However, most areas ***east of the Sierra Nevada and north of the southern Rockies*** are suffering from the effects of long-term drought, including low reservoir levels, below-normal mountain snow packs, and dismal prospects for spring and summer streamflow (reservoir replenishment).
- ***On the Plains***, snow showers accompany a push of milder air across ***northern portions of the region***, where a shallow snow cover continues to provide some insulation for the winter wheat crop. Wheat remains largely exposed on the ***central High Plains***, although the region is escaping the effects of the cold blast that is affecting areas farther north and east.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, bitterly cold weather continues to stress livestock and curtail outdoor activities. This morning's low temperatures ranged from -10 to -25 degrees F in the ***upper Midwest***.
- ***In the South***, a developing coastal storm is producing near-blizzard conditions along ***North Carolina's Outer Banks*** and snow elsewhere in the ***Carolinas***. Wind chill advisories are posted from the ***Delta into the Southeast*** for low temperatures and gusty winds, and freeze warnings are in effect for tonight across nearly all of ***Florida***.

Outlook: Arctic air behind a strong front will bring bitterly cold conditions to the ***eastern two-thirds of the U.S.***, with hard freezes expected across the ***Gulf Coast States***, including much of ***Florida***, on Friday and Saturday mornings. Tonight's minimum temperatures in ***central and southern Florida*** are forecast to range from 20 to 40 degrees F, falling within 5 to 10 degrees F of all-time-record lows. Farther north, snow will diminish across the ***Carolinas***. In the ***West***, a series of Pacific storm systems will maintain unsettled weather across the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, and northern High Plains***, while above-normal temperatures will prevail from the ***Pacific Coast to the Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 28 - February 1 calls for wetter-than-normal weather in the ***Pacific Northwest, Tennessee Valley, and the Atlantic Coast States***, while mostly dry weather is expected in the ***Plains, Southwest, and Midwest***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across much of the U.S., although cooler-than-normal weather will linger in the ***Southeast***.

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